PATENT
Docket No.: **CL/V-30785A/C1/CVE62**
Cust. No. 001095

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
BIEL, ET AL.
APPLICATION NO: **(NOT YET ASSIGNED)**
FILED: **(HEREWITH)**
FOR: **LENS INSPECTION DEVICE**

EXAMINER:
(NOT YET ASSIGNED)
ART UNIT: **(NOT YET ASSIGNED)**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

2 August, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to beginning examination of the enclosed application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 11 and add new Claims 12 – 20 as follows:

1. (amended) Lens checking apparatus for the optical control of ophthalmic lenses**[**, preferably contact lenses,**]** comprising a container **[**(2)**]** to received a lens to be examined, an illuminating device with at least one light source **[**(5)**]** which emits a light beam, and a condenser **[**(7)**]** to illuminate the lens and an image receiving device to receive the image of the lens, whereby the light beam from the light source **[**(5)**]** has a predetermined wavelength and a CCD camera **[**(8)**]** is provided as the image receiving device.

2. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to claim 1, whereby the light source **[**(5)**]** has a wavelength in the region of λ = 600 – 1000 nm.

3. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to claim 1 **[**or 2**]**, whereby a light emitting diode (LED) is provided as the light source **[**(5)**]**

4. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to claim 3, whereby an IR diode is provided as the light source **[**(5)**]**.

6. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to [one or more of claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, whereby a cut-on filter [(11)] is provided in front of the CCD camera [(8)].

7. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to [one or more of claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, whereby a high-resolution CCD camera [(8)] is used.

8. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to [one or more of claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera [(8)] is movable by means of an x-y cradle [(13)].

9. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to [one or more of claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera [(8)] is movable by means of an x-y-z cradle [(13)].

10. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to claim 8 [or 9], whereby the cradle [(13)] is controllable by stepping motor units [(14)].

11. (amended) Lens checking apparatus according to [one or more of claims 1 to 10] Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera [(8)] is linked to a computer [(9)], the image of the lens [(3)] taken by the CCD camera [(8)] being stored in the computer [(9)], and testing of the lens [(3)] being carried out by means of an automatic software–supported image analysis system.

12. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby said ophthalmic lenses are contact lenses.

13. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby a light emitting diode (LED) is provided as the light source.

14. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

15. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 3, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

16. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 4, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

17. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 5, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

18. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y cradle.

19. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 3, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y cradle.

20. (new) Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y-z cradle.

REMARKS

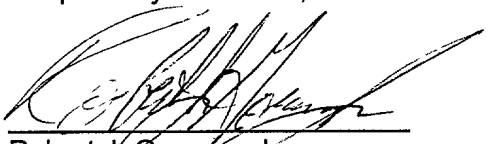
Remaining Claims

Twenty (20) claims (Claims 1 – 20) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 11 have been amended; and Claims 12 – 20 have been added herein. Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Patent and Trademark Department, 564 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees with may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



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CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED AND NEW CLAIMS

1. Lens checking apparatus for the optical control of ophthalmic lenses, comprising a container to received a lens to be examined, an illuminating device with at least one light source which emits a light beam, and a condenser to illuminate the lens and an image receiving device to receive the image of the lens, whereby the light beam from the light source has a predetermined wavelength and a CCD camera is provided as the image receiving device.

2. Lens checking apparatus according to claim 1, whereby the light source has a wavelength in the region of $\lambda = 600 - 1000$ nm.

3. Lens checking apparatus according to claim 1, whereby a light emitting diode (LED) is provided as the light source.

4. Lens checking apparatus according to claim 3, whereby an IR diode is provided as the light source.

6. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

7. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby a high-resolution CCD camera is used.

8. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y cradle.

9. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y-z cradle.

10. Lens checking apparatus according to claim 8, whereby the cradle is controllable by stepping motor units.

11. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby the CCD camera is linked to a computer, the image of the lens taken by the CCD camera being stored in the computer, and testing of the lens being carried out by means of an automatic software–supported image analysis system.

12. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 1, whereby said ophthalmic lenses are contact lenses.

13. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby a light emitting diode (LED) is provided as the light source.

14. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

15. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 3, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

16. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 4, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

17. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 5, whereby a cut-on filter is provided in front of the CCD camera.

18. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y cradle.

19. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 3, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y cradle.

20. Lens checking apparatus according to Claim 2, whereby the CCD camera is movable by means of an x-y-z cradle.